

CONCORD TOWNSHIP FACTS & HISTORY

Geography:

- The Scioto River bisects the township from north to south.
- O'Shaughnessy Reservoir is on the Scioto River and was created by the O'Shaughnessy Dam, completed in 1925, in southern Concord Township.
- Mill Creek enters the township in the northwest panhandle and joins the Scioto River at the northern end of O'Shaughnessy Reservoir.
- Eversole Run drains much of western Concord Township, emptying into O'Shaughnessy Reservoir north of Shawnee Hills.
- Geographic center of Ohio along Scioto River.



Old Covered Bridge over the Scioto River.
Built by R.L. Patridge, bridge stood from
1873-1913

Major roadways:

- U.S. Route 42 crosses the northern section of Concord Township from northeast to southwest just south of Bellpoint.
- Ohio Route 257 is a major north/south route through the township. OH 257 follows the east shore of O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, crosses the Scioto River with US 42 and continues north following the west bank of the Scioto River. The road passes through Bellpoint.
- Ohio Route 745 is the other major north/south route through the township. OH 745 (or old Rural Route 4, aka Dublin-Prospect Road) follows predominantly along the west shore of O'Shaughnessy Reservoir from Shawnee Hills to US 42 within the township. (source wikip.)

Concord Township was formed in 1819. It is one of seven Concord Townships statewide. The township is governed by a three-member board of trustees, who are elected in November of odd-numbered years to a four-year term beginning on the following January 1. Two are elected in the year after the presidential election and one is elected in the year before it. There is also an elected township fiscal officer, who serves a four-year term beginning on April 1 of the year after the election, which is held in November of the year before the presidential election. Vacancies in the fiscal office or on the board of trustees are filled by the remaining trustees.

Current elected officials are Fiscal Officer, Jill Davis, and Trustees, Bart Johnson (chairman), Joe Garrett (vice chairman), Jason Haney (executive member).

Primary emergency medical services and fire suppression are provided by Concord Township Fire and Rescue.

Concord Township's 2010 Census population was 10,256 people. Since 2010, it has had a population growth of 20.4%. The median home cost in Concord Township is \$394,000. Home appreciation the last 10 years has been 2.1%.



Bridge at Present-Day Home Road

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Excerpts from the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Delaware County Ohio, by LH Everts & Co, 1875.

A wilderness reclaimed, a beautiful home made, it cannot be other than interesting to learn the past and present of Delaware County. Time was when countless herds of wild animals made broad thoroughfares to stake their thirst in the cool waters of Delaware's mineral springs. Hither came the Delaware from the East, and found an Indian's paradise. Dense forests covered the surface, fine streams traversed the valleys, and noble game abounded everywhere.

Ohio being admitted as an independent state, it was stipulated that all lands met, then granted or sold, should belong to the nation. Various grants were subsequently made to individuals, companies, and bodies politic. The lands of Delaware County lying west of the Scioto River [Concord Township] were known as Virginia Military, and were surveyed by Nathaniel Massie, an expert workman, energetic and active, liberal and kind. These lands were guaranteed by Congress to Virginia, as an offset to the claims relinquished by that State to Northwest Lands. Virginia appropriated these lands to payment of her troops who served during the Revolution in the Continental army. Considering the fact that each person could locate as he desired, the Delaware portion is quite regular in survey, and free from irregularities and litigations of the great body. Virginia gave up her lands lying northwest of the Ohio River, to the United States in 1784.

On February 10, 1808, the County of Delaware was formed from Franklin. ...June 17, 1808. Resolved by the Board of Commissioners, that for every wolf scalped over six months old shall be allowed two dollars, and for all under, one dollar.

The productions are varied as the inclination of the cultivator. While all grains and fruits are grown, the attention of farmers to corn, flax, and wheat render these the staple products, while the large area adapted to meadow and pasture render the raising of stock a natural consequence. Long before the foot of the white man pressed the soil, the Delawares [Indians] had tilled extensive fields and raised their crops of corn. The distance from market forbade traffic...

Ohio is a noble State in the products of dairy. The showing of Delaware was 575,048 pounds [of butter], and this entitles her to stand thirty-third in the grade. The sugar-maple abounds in the County. ...Delaware ranks seventh, with a yield of 13,220 gallons.

Grinding was done at the Dublin Mill. In dry times the dams were so poor that the people could not get grinding done. Flour could not be obtained nearer than Chillicothe and Zanesville for a long time. Most supplies came by wagon from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, thence down the Ohio in flat-boats to the Scioto, and thence hauled or packed up. A store was kept at the mouth of Mill Creek by the Winslows. They set a large chest of dry goods under a canvas tent, and began trading by a sale of goods and a purchase of furs. Tea sold at two dollars a pound; coffee at half a dollar to three-quarters; sale ten cents a pound; prints a dollar a yard; and whisky at one to two dollars per gallon, and free sale.

Wolf pens six feet long, four wide, and three high were made like a heavy square box from small logs floored with puncheons. Besides the wolf, there were bears... Panthers were occasionally heard; and dens of yellow rattlesnake in Concord Township swarmed in the spring-time with the deadly reptiles coming forth.

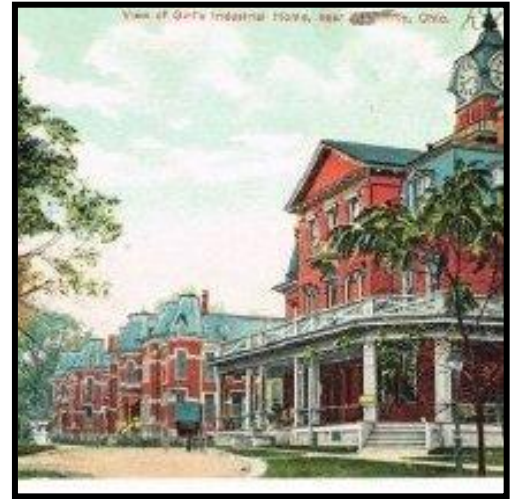
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Upon the rapids of Scioto, ten miles southwest of Delaware [present day Home Road], is a quartet of springs. In 1820, while boring a two-and-a-half-inch hole for salt water, through solid rock, the auger, at a depth of ninety feet, suddenly fell two feet, and up came a stream of white sulphuric water with great force, which has continued unabated to the present. The temperature is about 50 degrees. The White Sulphur Springs, on the Scioto, owe their origin to an attempt by a person named Bachus to find a salt well. The failure discouraged him, and he returned East. Messrs. Hart and Stout, from Dayton, Ohio, came thither, and built the Mansion House for a summer resort. Later, the property was purchased by the State, and the Industrial School for Girls there located.

In 1847 buildings were erected, and the place used as a resort. The Girls' Industrial Home is at present located at this point. A magnesium, a chalybeate, and a saline chalybeate spring are found here. Other fine springs exist, of which there are two near the Female Seminary. The Ohio White Sulphur Springs, of which proper mention has been made, are seventeen miles north of Columbus, and near the Scioto River. The healthfulness of the locality, the beauty of the grounds, and the curative properties of the waters have combined to make this section a popular and fashionable resort.

The Girl's Industrial Home was established on May 5, 1869, at the White Sulphur Fountain... It was opened for the reception of inmates on October 15, 1869. There were in the Home, November 15, 1873, one hundred and twenty-seven. Applications are far in excess of room.

[The Girls' Industrial Home was Ohio's correctional facility for minor women for much of the state's history. Most states established detention facilities for juvenile offenders during the mid nineteenth century. Many legislators feared that placing juvenile criminals in prisons with adult offenders would further corrupt the youth. Similar to other states, Ohio established the Girls' Industrial Home. It opened in 1869. Known as the State Reform School for Girls until 1872, this institution was a reformatory for girls. Originally the young women were to be between seven and sixteen years of age. The Girls' Industrial Home was located approximately ten miles south of Delaware, in the small community of Rathbone, Ohio. The institution was located on the grounds of the former White Sulphur Springs, a resort established in 1847. Many people believed that water from the spring had medicinal qualities. (DelCoHistSoc)]



Concord's First Settlers

This township lies in the southwest portion of the County, on the banks of the Scioto River. The first white settler of this organization was George Hill, who came here in 1812 from Pennsylvania. He was accompanied by others of the family, and by Christopher Freshwaughter. He is said by John Hamilton to have felled the first tree and built the first habitation in the township. He erected this building on the lot owned recently by Joel Marsh, and situated north of the old Mansion House at the Sulphur Springs. The date is given as March, 1812; and the ground being then frozen, this little sixteen by eighteen but was chinked with gathered moss.

The father of George Hill built the second cabin shortly after, and gave it a similar finish. The third cabin was erected by Freshwater, who was brother-in-law to George Hill, on the farm on which James Freshwater is a present resident. The first child born in the township was George Freshwater, whose home is located on Mill Creek. At this time there were no settlers save the Hills nearer than Big Darby,

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Whetstone, Radnor, and Douldin. There were no roads through the forest. A pack-horse trail hollowed the West Bank of the Scioto River from Columbus to Sandusky. Wild beasts were numerous. Dens of yellow rattlesnakes were known at this time, whence hundreds of these reptiles crawled at the approach of warm weather, and sunned themselves on the drift-wood along the river bank.

The first stone house, constructed by Joshua Hills in 1822, stands on the West Bank of the Scioto, two miles south of Bellepoint. Archival Hamilton and family moved to Delaware in October, 1820, and settled one mile east of the mouth of Mill creek. The first grist- and saw-mill in Concord was erected by Henry Cryder, who, from his share of the lumber sawed, constructed the first frame house in that locality. The building stands on land now owned by Joshua Corbin, one mile below Bellepoint, and on the east side of the river. Messrs Winslow sold the first goods at the mouth of Mill Creek from a tent. Later, Michael Cryder set up a store on the Freshwater farm, and in time removed to Bellepoint. Bellepoint, at the mouth of Mill Creek, and in the north part of the township, was laid out by James Kooker, on August 26, 1835. Salt was bought at Vane's Mill. Money was a scarce article. Shoes were home-made. The want of sufficient clothing was often experienced.

Years went by before the first school-house was built. Henry Cryder, removing to a better house, gave the old one for school purposes. It stood on the site of the present United Brethren Church. Its first teacher was John Wilson, a person of singular habits for an instructor of youth. The first religious meeting was held at the house of Henry Cryder. The preacher was Rev. Vandemon, Presbyterian, from Delaware. Ears which had not heard a sermon for many years listened to his enunciation of the appropriate text, "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Rev. Ufford held meeting. A United Brethren Church was started by Rev. Peter Rabler, from Virginia. The denomination finally erected a church and were the first to have a house of worship. The Methodists, with that energy which has resulted in their present great prosperity, soon built a church north of Bellepoint.

The first marriage in the township was that of Joel Marsh to Miss Hill. The service was performed by Daniel Roberts, of Mill Creek. Incidental to this, a bee-tree was found and a fine deer shot on the same day. The material for a feast being opportunely provided, a number of Indians, encamped near, partook of the white man's hospitality.

The first death which occurred in Concord was that of the aged Mrs. Hill. She lived nearly 100 years. Her remains were buried on the Hill farm, still used by the family as a burial place.



One-room School, later E.U.B Church



Concord Rural District
Horse drawn school wagon

Township Personals and Directories

Name. Location. Date of Settlement. Nativity. Post-Office Address. Descrip. Of Business.

Butt, Isaac Section 3, Lot 17, 1825, from Virginia, PO Bellepoint, Farmer.

Carson, C.T. Section 3, Lot 19, 1837, from Ohio, PO Lewis Centre, Farmer and stock raiser.

Cowles, Homer J. Surv. 2992, Lot 5, 1837, from Ohio, PO Bellepoint, Farmer and Township Clerk.

Fry, Richard. Surv. 2992, Lot 6, 1858, from England, PO Bellepoint, Farmer and stock raiser.

Hutchinson, J.T. Surv. 1221, Lot 1, 1857, from Ohio, PO Bellepoint, Farmer.

Hill, Solomon. Surv. 1421, Lot 5, 1825, from Ohio, PO Lewis Centre, Farmer and Proprietor Hill's Grove.

Kelly, Mrs. Louisa. Section 1, Lot 2, 1836, from Ohio, PO Bellepoint, Farmer.

Nichols, M.D., J no. 1869, from Massachusetts, PO Lewis Centre, Supt. State Girl's Reform School.

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Ropp, Wm. T. Section 2, Lot 37, 1858, from Virginia, PO Delaware, Physician and surgeon.
Stone, Mrs. Rachel. 1838, from Ohio, PO Lewis Centre, Farmer.
Said, Presley. Surv. 2992, Lot 1, 1819, from Kentucky, PO Ostrander, Farmer.
Stout, Samuel. Section 2, Lot 9, 1844, from Ohio, PO Powell, Farmer.
Seeley, T.O. Surv. 2545, Lot 2, 1840, from New York, PO Dublin, Farmer.
Wollam, James. Surv. 2865, Lot 3, 1835, from Ohio, PO Jerome, Farmer.
Wiley, Davis. Surv. 1421, Lot 10, 1832, from Ohio, PO Delaware, of Slough & Wiley, props. Magnolia Mills.
Webster, W.H. Section 3, Lot 83, 1838, from New York, PO Bellepoint, Farmer and Township Trustee.

Hill Cemetery is located along the west bank of the Scioto River in Concord Township, Delaware County, OH. Take State Route 745 north from the village of Rathbone for about 1 mile. Find a gate and a small sign on your right (east side of SR 745) - park at the gate and walk east along a mowed path for a quarter of a mile [this is now private property]. You can now disregard the "rattlesnake warnings" found in earlier descriptions of this cemetery - they are long gone - but the path can become quite muddy during rainy seasons. One early report regarding Hill Cemetery indicates that there are no fewer than six veterans of the American Revolution buried there. The cemetery was created from an acre of land set aside by [Stephen Hill](#), a soldier of the American Revolution who homesteaded the property in about 1812. The oldest known burial at Hill Cemetery took place in 1823 when Stephen buried his 93-year-old mother [Elisabeth \(Sheely\) Hill](#).

Freshwater Cemetery [this is now private property] Also known as *Eversole Run Cemetery*

LOCATION: Concord Road and Turfway Bend Drive

MEMORIALS: 41 added (46% photographed)

The cemetery is located in Concord Township, Delaware County, Ohio, and is #2895 in "Ohio Cemeteries 1803-2003", compiled by the Ohio Genealogical Society.